



# HIV Antibody Test

## What is HIV?

HIV is a virus. It destroys our body's ability to fight off sickness. This virus may cause an illness called AIDS. HIV antibodies are made when a person is infected with HIV.

## What is the HIV Antibody Test?


It is a test that looks for the HIV antibodies that are in the blood of an infected person. This test is NOT a test for AIDS. It only means that you have been infected with HIV and may develop AIDS.

## Who is at risk of being infected with HIV?

- People who have unsafe sex with a person who has the virus (unsafe sex means having sex without a rubber or condom)
- People who share IV needles or syringes with a person who has the virus
- Anyone who got blood, blood products, or organ transplants before 1985
- Babies born to mothers who have HIV.

## What does a negative HIV test result mean?

HIV antibodies were not found in your blood. Most of the time it takes our bodies between two weeks and six months to develop antibodies to HIV. Infected persons can have a negative result if they get tested too soon.



## What does a positive HIV test result mean?

- A person has HIV. This does NOT mean that a person has AIDS now, but they may develop AIDS.
- A person can give HIV to other people through unsafe sex or sharing IV needles or syringes for as long as they are infected.
- A woman who has HIV can give the virus to her baby during pregnancy or at birth.

## Where can I go to be tested?

- Most county health departments do HIV Antibody counseling and testing.
- Many doctors do HIV Antibody counseling and testing.

## Where can I learn more about HIV and AIDS?

- Washington State HIV/AIDS Hotline:  
**1-800-272-AIDS**
- National AIDS Hotlines:  
**1-800-342-AIDS** English  
**1-800-344-SIDA** Spanish  
**1-800-AIDS-TTY** Hearing Impaired
- Public Health-Seattle & King County  
AIDS Prevention Project:  
**206-205-7837**  
Toll-free in King County:  
**1-800-678-1595**
- Your local Health Department/District



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